

SUPPORT H.B. 6491

Dear Judiciary Committee,

I am writing to strongly SUPPORT H.B. 6491, An Act Permitting Persons to Protect Themselves Using Non-Lethal Defensive Instruments. This bill MUST be passed in order to conform Connecticut law to the United States Supreme Court's ruling in *Caetano v. Massachusetts* finding that bans on non-lethal defensive instruments are unconstitutional.

Tasers and stun guns (electronic defense weapons) are an excellent alternative to firearms in the event of emergency cases of self defense, and may be legally owned by citizens in 48 states. Citizens of CT are only "allowed" to own electronic defense weapons in the home, but are not "allowed" to carry; this must be changed. The state government should not be allowed to dictate how, when, or with what a person is able to defend themselves. Self defense is a God-given, natural, and fundamental right of all living creatures, and must not be infringed. Electronic self defense weapons offer a less than lethal alternative to firearms in one's defense and protection of their safety, life, liberty and property.

Passage of this bill would also allow for citizens who may not be willing or able to obtain pistol permits (for various legitimate medical or other reasons) to defend themselves effectively from criminals, predators, and other dangerous people and creatures.

I wholeheartedly support and hope you will vote FOR the REMOVAL of the prohibition on possession of nonlethal electric defense weapons In Connecticut.

Thank you,  
Richard Forest